

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-8 and 13-20 are pending. Claims 1-8 are withdrawn. Claims 13-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to a method of designing a turbulence-free laboratory safety enclosure to eliminate eddy currents, the safety enclosure including a work chamber having an access opening with an upper edge and at least one air deflector positioned along and spaced below the upper edge of the access opening. The method, as specifically defined in the claims, is comprised of a combination of steps utilizing computational models of the laboratory safety enclosure and the air deflector as computational resources to solve a set of computational fluid dynamics equations, solving the computational fluid dynamics equations to determine an approximation of fluid dynamics within the laboratory safety enclosure, displaying a representation of the approximation of fluid dynamics within the laboratory safety enclosure, and adjusting the computational model that numerically represents the structure of the air deflector to further reduce turbulence represented by the display of the fluid dynamics approximation.

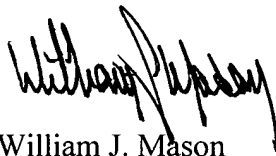
Simply put, the IBM Technical Bulletin shows only that it is known to use computational fluid dynamics, including Navier-Stokes equations, to calculate airflow within an enclosure. The IBM Technical Bulletin does not even disclose or suggest use of computational fluid dynamics to design a turbulence-free laboratory safety enclosure in which the issue is inflow of air as opposed to outflow as in the case of clean rooms of the type discussed in the IBM Technical Bulletin. Moreover, the IBM Technical Bulletin does not suggest use of computational fluid dynamics to design a turbulence-free laboratory safety enclosure including an air deflector to

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eliminate eddy currents. Finally, the IBM Technical Bulletin does not suggest use of computational fluid dynamics in combination with the other steps defined in applicant's claims to achieve the desired result. In the absence of these suggestions, the claims, especially as now presented, cannot be held to be unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

In view of the foregoing amendments and for the above reasons, it is now believed that the current application is in condition for allowance. If unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to telephone applicant's agent at the number below.

Respectfully submitted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Mason", written in a cursive style.

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